

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 RSR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-13 SR-02 ORM-03 EUR-25 NIC-01

AID-20 CCO-00 FBO-01 M-03 OC-06 OPR-02 USSS-00 SCA-01

A-01 SY-10 SCS-03 /174 W
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P R 311055Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7405

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KARACHI 1335

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PK

SUBJECT: LIMITED DISTURBANCES CONTINUE IN KARACHI JULY 30

REF: KARACHI 1328

1. EVENTS OF JULY 30: A THIRD DAY OF DISTURBANCES OCCURRED IN THE LIAQUATABAD SECTION OF KARACHI AND DISTURBANCES ALSO TOOK PLACE IN ADJOINING NAZIMABAD. SPORADIC DISTURBANCES WHICH OCCURRED THROUGHOUT THE DAY WERE INITIATED MID-MORNING WHEN ROAD BLOCKAGES WERE ESTABLISHED ON PRINCIPLE THOROUGHFARE IN LIAQUATABAD. FOR MUCH OF THE DAY THIS THOROUGHFARE CLOSED TO NORMAL TRAFFIC AND LATER IN AFTERNOON ROAD CONNECTING LIAQUATABAD WITH NAZIMABAD AND PRINCIPLE THOROUGHFARE FROM NAZIMABAD TO CENTER OF CITY ALSO CLOSED TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC. IN LIAQUATABAD MOST SERIOUS SITUATION REPORTEDLY OCCURRED SHORTLY AFTER MID-DAY WHEN SIZEABLE CROWD MOVED TOWARD
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LOCAL POLICE STATION AND STONED COMPOUND. THIS PRODUCED

RETALIATORY POLICE TEAR GAS ATTACK AND SUBSEQUENT FORAY FROM STATION TO CLEAR AREA. ABOUT 4:00 PM A BUS WAS BURNED AT TRAFFIC CIRCLE IN NAZIMABAD AND TWO NEARBY BANK OFFICES STONED BY CROWD. FOR MOST OF DAY POLICE REMAINED IN CONFINES OF STATION, BUT IN LATE AFTERNOON AND EARLY EVENING MOVED OUT AND SCUFFLES OCCURRED AND SOME ARRESTS MADE. UNSUBSTANTIATED REPORTS POLICE HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT TO RESORT TO USE OF FIRE ARMS PERHAPS TRUE SINCE THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF ANY FIRING BY POLICE OTHER THAN TEAR GAS FIRING AND POLICE HAVE RESORTED TO ALL MEASURES SHORT OF FIRING ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS. THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF SIGNIFICANT DISTURBANCES IN THE EARLY OR LATE EVENING OF JULY 30.

2. PUBLIC STATEMENTS: SIND CHIEF MINISTER MUMTAZ ALI BHUTTO AGAIN ON JULY 30 APPEALED TO RESIDENTS OF LIAQUATABAD TO DESIST FROM LAWLESSNESS LEST SITUATION DETERIORATE AND AUTHORITIES BE COMPELLED TO TAKE ACTION TO UPHOLD LAW AND ORDER. TEHRIK-I-ISTQALAL LEADER ASGHAR KHAN IN JULY 30 PRESS CONFERENCE HELD PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR DISTURBANCES AND GRATUITOUSLY WARNED GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT TRY TO GIVE SINDHI-MOHAJIR (REFUGEE) CONFLICT COLORATION TO INCIDENTS. SIMULTANEOUSLY ASGHAR MADE 5-POINT DEMAND FOR RETRIEVING SITUATION AND ANNOUNCED HE WOULD DELAY HIS PLANNED JULY 31 DEPARTURE FROM KARACHI. NUMEROUS OTHER LESSER FIGURES HAVE MADE PUBLIC STATEMENTS CALLING FOR RESTORATION OF ORDER AND POINTING A FINGER OF BLAME EITHER AT GOVERNMENT OR POLITICAL AGITATION, AS SUITS THEIR POLITICAL PREDISPOSITIONS.

3. CONDITIONS MORNING OF JULY 31: VEHICULAR TRAFFIC IN LIAQUATABAD AND NAZIMABAD SOMEWHAT REDUCED FROM NORMAL VOLUME, BUT MOVING FREELY. IN CONTRAST TO JULY 30, WHEN POLICE STAYED IN THEIR COMPOUND, POLICE VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE IN LOCALITY WITH CONTINGENTS LOCATED AT LIKELY TROUBLE SPOTS AND OTHER LARGE POLICE PARTIES ACTIVELY PATROLLING AREA. MANY OF SHOPS IN AREA REMAIN CLOSED AND NUMBER OF LOITERERS AND BYSTANDERS IN AREA MUCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REDUCED FROM AFTERNOON OF JULY 30. ELEMENTS OF POLICE, SIND CONSTABULARY, AND FRONTIER CONSTABULARY ALL PRESENT. IN GENERAL, OBSERVER'S SUBJECTIVE JUDGMENT IS THAT CONDITIONS IN AREA LESS TENSE JULY 31 THAN JULY 30.

4. COMMENT: POLITICAL COLORATION APPARENT AT COMMENCEMENT OF DISTURBANCES JULY 28 APPEARS TO HAVE FADED AND SUBSEQUENT DISTURBANCES HAVE APPEARED TO BE MORE

POPULACE VERSUS THE AUTHORITIES, I.E. THE POLICE.
ALTHOUGH AREAS AFFECTED BY THE DISTURBANCES WIDENED
SLIGHTLY JULY 30, FURTHER EXPANSION DOES NOT APPEAR
LIKELY. AUTHORITIES' RESTRAINT REGARDING USE OF FIRE
ARMS HAS BEEN NOTED PARTICULARLY SINCE CROWDS HAVE
OFFERED SERIOUS PROVOCATION TO POLICE WHOM AT TIMES
IN SOME SITUATIONS THEY VASTLY OVERWHELMED IN
NUMBERS. ALTHOUGH THE SINDI-REFUGEE CONFLICT MAY
BE ONE ELEMENT IN THE UNDERLYING BACKGROUND OF THESE
DISTURBANCES IT WOULD APPEAR THAT ASGHAR KHAN'S INTER-
JECTION OF THIS ISSUE INTO THE PRESENT SITUATION AT HIS
PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 30 WAS GRATUITOUS, REFLECTING EITHER
A DEMOGOGIC APPROACH TOWARDS POLITICAL ACTION, OR A
DEARTH OF OTHER ISSUES WITH WHICH TO KEEP PRESENT DISTUR-
BANCES FUELED. ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE ONE, IT IS DIFFICULT
TO ESTABLISH DIRECT CAUSATIVE LINK BETWEEN THESE
DISTURBANCES IN KARACHI AND THE CONCURRENT MEETINGS
OF BHUTTO'S POLITICAL OPPOSITION IN LAHORE.
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